MINUTES

OF THE

SIXTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

LIBERTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH THE

PINEY GROVE CHURCH

Limestone Co., Ala.

September 14, 15, and 16, 1899

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AMERICAN BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY

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Sixty=second Annual Session

OF THE

Liberty Baptist Association

HELD WITH

Piney Grove Church,

LIMESTONE CO., ALABAMA.

September 14th, 15th and 16th, 1899.

LIMESTONE DEMOCRAT PRINT, ATHENS, ALA.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

- 1 Call to order by former Moderator.
- 2 Annual or introductory sermon.
- 3 Call for church letters and enroll delegates.
- 4 Permanent organization by electing Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer.
- 5 Call for petitionary letters.
- 6 Correspondents and visitors.
- 7 Appointment of committees by Moderator.
- a On religious services, to report on call.
- b On synopsis of Church letters.
- c On Finance.
- 8 Call for report of standing committees.
- a Committee on Misslons.
- b Committee on Education.
- c Committee on Temperance.
- d Committee on Religious Literature.
- e Committee on Indigent Ministers.
- f Committee on Prayer Meeting.
- g Committee on Orphans' Home. h Committee on Woman's Work.
- i R port of Executive Committee.
- 10 Appoint a place for meeting.
- 11 Appoint a brother to preach the introductory sermon.
- 12 Announce standing committees to report at next meeting,
- 13 Appoint messengers to other bodies.
- 14 Miscellaneous business.
- 15 Report on Sunday-schools.
- 16 Adjournment.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

Brett, R	Webster, W. P. Haden, Rice, H. E. New Market, Taylor, L. W. Huntsville, Parker, A. J. Deposit, Pettus, W. H. Cluttsville, Freeman, C. A. Madison
Hopper, W. C Poplar Creek.	

EXECUTIVE BOARD.

J. P. Hampton, Chairman; R. E. Pettus, Secretary; J. A. Fanning, H. E. Rice, T. J. Wall, J. J. Lawler.

MINUTES.

The delegates composing the Sixty-second Annual Session of the Liberty Association of Missionary Baptists met with Piney Grove Church, Limestone county, Alabama, on Thursday, Septembar 14, 1899, at 11 o'clock a.m.

Eld. H. E. Rice read as a lesson 16 verses of the 5th chapter of Exodus, and offered prayer. Bro. Rice preached the introductory sermon, from the text, "But the fault is in thine own people;" latter clause of the 16th verse of the chapter read. At the conclusion of the sermon prayer was led by Eld. Rutherford Brett.

The Moderator, Dr. J. P. Hampton, announced that the Association was ready for business, and asked to know the pleasure of the body. A motion was entertained and carried to adjourn until 1:30 p. m. for refreshments. Benediction, Eld. J. W. Sandlin.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At 1:30 p. m. the Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Eld. N. D. Crutcher.

The Moderator appointed as reading clerks Elders R. Brett and J. W. Sandlin.

The following churches responded by letters and delegates:

Beulah-W. H. Eddings, E. D. Carroll, E. F. Witherspoon.

Charity East—R. W. Moore, Leonard Cagle. Charity West—Dock Cantrell, J. W. Tanner.

Dallas Avenue-R. E. Pettus.

Huntsville (First)-Eld. R. Brett, Dr. J. P. Hampton.

Locust Grove-M. A. Miller, T. M. Bayless, R. L. Penney.

Madison-C. A. Freeman.

Mt. Pisgah-E. E. Key, J. N. Rogers, W. J. Baugher.

Mt. Zion-Eld. W. J. Pettus, Arthur Wall, Lem Derham, W. L. Hilliard, T. J. Wall, M. A. Taylor, Jno. Billions, Arthur Johnson.

New Market-Letter; no delegate.

New Zion-Eld, N. D. Crutcher, M. A. Crutcher.

Piney Grove-W. N. Hargrove, A. J. Whitt, J. W. Lewter, Pressly Whitt, Ep. Gatlin, J. A. Lewter.

Rice-Eld. H. E. Rice, John A. Fanning.

Round Island-Perry Henderson, G. E. Berzette.

Temperance Oak-I. F. Rose, H. A. White, H. A. Hughes.

Union Grove-W. F. Manning.

Wainut Hill-C. S. Thorne, W. T. Arnold, Forest Hodge.

Poplar Creek-W. C. Shaw.

Enon-R. C. Griggs, B. Z. Smith.

Poplar Creek and Enon having been dropped from the roll several years ago on account of not having been represented, by motion of Bro. R. E. Pettus they were restored and delegates received.

After the reading of letters and delegates enrolled permanent organization was entered into.

By motion of Bro. R. E. Pettus, the rules were suspended and Dr. J. P. Hampton was elected Moderator by acclamation.

By motion of Eld. N. D. Crutcher, the same action was had in regard to Clerk and Treasurer, and Perry Henderson was unimously elected.

Upon call for visitors and correspondents, Elder F. C. Daniel, correspondent from Muscle Shoals Association and representative of the Ministers' Institute work; Eld. J. W. Sandlin, representing the State Board; Eld. H. C. Smith and H. L. Whitt, of Wm. Cary Association, responded, and were invited to seats with us and to take part in our deliberations.

The Mcderator appointed the following committees:

On Religious Services, to Report on Call—The pastor and deacons of Piney Grove church.

On Synopsis of Church Letters--Eld. W. H. Pettus, J. N. Regers and G. W. Johnson.

On Finance-J. A. Fanning, A. M. Baugher and T. J. Wall.

Upon call of reports of standing committees, the following were appointed to fill vacancies:

On Education-Eld. R. Brett was added to committee.

On Prayer Meeting-Eld. F. C. Daniel.

On Woman's Work-Eld. J. W. Sandlin.

Upon motion of R. E. Pettus, to-morrow at 10 o'clock the reports on the various missions are to be read and subjects discussed.

Report of Committee on Young People's Work, read by R. E. Pettus:

YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK.

In presenting this report upon the young peoples work we believe you will agree with us when we say this branch of work in the church is second to the Sunday-school only in reaching our young people, and many young men who feel they have gotten beyond the Sunday-school stage can often be enlisted in the Young Peoples Union. They may take no part at first, except in the social features, but soon some will be found lending their assistance in the literary programs which is often times followed by their becoming enthusiastic workers in the devotion of meetings.

As the B. Y. P. U. has for its chief object the training of the young people for more active and effectual religious work, the organization should receive all possible encouragement from those who are older in the Master's service. Difficulties when overcome by an indivual make him stronger thereby better preparing him to meet the greater difficulties of the fature.

The same is equally true of our organization. So we would urge upon the union the importance of looking forward all the while with a singleness of purpose which is to learn his will and serve him more acceptably. The young peoples work the past year has made wonderful progress. God has certainly blessed their efforts. Many have been made to see clearly that they have a personal Savior and the minds and hearts of many young people have come to know more fully the will of our Lord and Master. Have we, as a denomination and as individuals, given that sympathy and encouragement which is due them, and while they have already accomplished a great work there is much more to be done; so let us come to their help in a material way and at the same time mingle our voices with theirs in the petition that greater things may be accomplished the the coming year than has been done in the one just closing.

Respectfully submitted, S. R. Butler, Chairman committee.

On motion to receive the report, Eld. F. C. David, Bro. R. E. Pettus, Elders N. D. Crutcher, J. W. Sandlin, H. C. Smith, R. Brett, W. H. Pettus and Dr. J. P. Hampton made good speeches on the subject, at the close of which the report was anopted.

The Committee on Devotional Exercises announced that Eld. J. W. Sandlin would preach in this house to-night at 7:30, and Eld. W. H. Pettus at Bethel schoolhouse at the same hour.

The report on Orphans' Home was read by Eld. W. H. Pettus.

REPORT ON ORPHANS HOME.

Our orphans and widows home opened its doors on March the 8th '93. Since that time it has given food, shelter and training to 49 boys and 69 girls.

Solomon says, "train up a child in the way it should go and when it is older it will not depart from it." Is not this home a good place to train such as are left helpless upon the world. Are you helping to support this work?

Out of this home have gone 28 boys and 27 girls.

We cannot stop to tell you where all these have gone. Just think there are in the home at this time 21 boys and 42 girls—63 in all. It takes about \$10 a day to support this home. They have no income except our offerings. Have we give as we should? We nrge the pastors to speak of this to their people, and the people to remember that 'tis more blessed to give than to receive. May God bless our orphans home.

Respectfully submitted
W. H. Pettus,
J. W. Lewter,
Committee.

On motion to adopt the report discussion was deferred until tomorrow at 9 o'clock.

Adjournment was then had until to-morrow at 9 a.m. Benediction by Eld. N. D. Crutcher.

SECOND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS, FRIDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 15, 1899.

Association convened pursuant to adjournmet.

Prayer by Eld. R. Brett.

Minutes of yesterday's proceedings read and adopted.

The discussion on the report on Orphans' Home was entered into by Elders W. H. Pettus, J. W. Sandlin and R. E. Pettus, at the close of which a collection was taken for the home, and pledges as follows:

PLEDGI	es.	CASH.	
Dallas Avenue	\$5.00	Mt. Pisgah	\$1 00
Charity East	75	Charity East.	
Locust Grove	5 00	New Zion	1 00
Mt. Zion	2 50	Round Island	1 00
New Zion.	. 1 00	Enon	25
Piney Grove:	1 00	J. A. Fanning	1 00
Union Grove.	1 50	A. J. Parker.	50
Walnut Hill .	1 50	J. L. Nelson	. 25
Poplar Creek	1 00	J. H. Latham	1 00
First Church, H	untsville,	J. P. Hampton	1 00
support one child	1.	Sister Hereford	50
E. F. Witherspoon	, 2 quilts.	R. L. Penny	. 1 00
		I. F. Rose	25
Pledges	\$19 25	Cash	Pd \$9 00

The report was adopted.

The reports on missions were then taken up.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Go ye therefore into all the world and preach my gospel to every creature thus saith the Lord, and nineteen centuries have passed away since this fell from the Master's lips. It still rings in the hearts of His people with as much force as it did to the apostles of that time.

Our heavenly Father, the God of Missions, has greatly blessed our work in foreign lands during the past year. We have a much larger number of converts baptized last year than in any year of our convention's history. Our missions generally are well organized, and the outlook full of hope. Most of the missionaries were detained at home on account of sickness or want of means to send them have returned to their fields. Besides these the board has appointed and sent out an excellent corps of strong, spiritually minded young men and women. Our church has cause to thank God for the high character and excellent qualifications of those who have been appointed during the past year.

Eighteen new missionaries and their wives have been sent out during the past year, and thirteen others have returned to their work. We regret that our receipts for the past year have fallen somewhat behind those of several years past. Still it must be remembered that for several years we have taken extra collection to pay old indebtedness, and this year's collections have not been nor-

mal on account of reaction and other causes.

Surely 1,674,343 Baptists ought to give more than \$109,267.43. We are glad to report all debts paid. During the past year all expenses amounted to fifteen cents on the dollar. The other eighty-five cents went to the missionaries. The statistical table of the board gives the following grand total: Number of churches, 100; out stations, 140; male missionaries, 35; female, 47; ordained natives, 27; unordained, 101; baptisms, 845; total membership, 5,847; Sunday-school scholars, 2,446; houses of worship, 57; scholars in day schools, 1,165; native contributions, \$6,110.20.

Respectfully submitted.

TOM M. BAYLESS.

HOME MISSIONS.

We are not prepared to make a report, although from what we can gather, the home work should be third with us; that is, we should look at our own Association first and to our State work next, and then to the home field and then to foreign work. It does look to us like the best way to get at this is to try to get our own

churches to understand the work better, and then they will do more. We should do more missionary work in our own Association, since God has made it our duty to send the gospel to the ends of the earth. We should not neglect our home, for God convicts the sinner first and requires him to repent. We think it a good thing to convince the people of the need of the gospel at home. We fear there are thousands in our churches without repentance or remission of sins. Respectfully submitted.

A. J. PARKER, W. P. Webster.

STATE MISSIONS.

Religion and education are the two great forces that were ordained of God for the suppression of sin and ignorance. In support of tuis assertion I refer you to what is contained in Matt. 28:19, 20, commonly called the great commission, which embodies these two great ideas; one of evangelistic missions, the other of educational missions. We contend that Baptists, judging by the past and the present, stand for the proper emphasis of both. But we by no means argue that Baptists are Joing their full duty in either of these particulars. Take, for instance, the population of our State, which is about 1,850,000, and note the per cent in our denomination, and this will give you an idea of what lies out before us to be done if we are to carry out the Lord's command.

While we have been having recently great rejoicing over the liquidation of the debts of our denomination, we have in a manner forgotten the debts we owe to our benighted neighbors all about us who have immortal souls that will be either saved or lost. Can we, will see them go down into eternal darkness? We have men and organizations enough, if they were properly aided and encouraged. not only to save Alabama, but the world. It is a deplorable fact that when the missionary sent out by the State board comes around we plead hard times, short crops and almost starvation, especially if he intimates that money for missions is needed. But let's see about how hard times really are in those homes. When dinner is announced the tired, hungry missionary is invited into the diningroom, where the table is laden with the best the market or farm affords. Then it is hard for him to reconcile the plea with the plates, and the old adage, "Consistency, thou art a jewel," comes to his mind. Half of this sumptuous repast would have satisfied the missionary, when at the market price the excess would have made a nice donation to the cause he represented. But he must depart with the promise that when times get better he will be remembered. Under these circumstances would be not be justifiable in referring

them to Acts 5:1-10. Bro. E. C. Clayton recently said in the Alabama Baptist: "God bless the evangelists! Their visits are as sunbeams to the pastors especially; they cheer, comfort and strengthen; but they are so comet-like as to returning." My brethren, may the Spirit of the Master awaken you to a fuller sense of your Christian duty, and enable you to bear your part of the burden, for if you do not it will only fall the more heavily upon the willing, faithful, but less able brother.

Doubtless there be those who have criticised our board for sending missionaries among you, but I want to emphasize the fact that our missionaries, in their faithful labors, have proved themselves to be both teachers and evangelists, for their tours throughout the State have been instructive educational campaigns that will yet prove to be "bread cast upon the waters," that will be gathered up after many days by the children of those to whom they have ministered.

Notwithstanding we have been so derelict in this particular duty, there are those of us who note with some degree of pride the progress made in this Association during the past decade.

This question of missions is one that vitally concerns every true child of God. The problem of saving this great nation would be solved if every State would see to it that all within its confines had the gospel preached to them.

Fraternally,

R E. PETTUS.

ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS.

To the North Liberty Association when convened with Piney Grove church. We your committee on Association Mission beg leave to submit the following: We believe that the Lord hath committed a sacred trust to his people that they should give the gospel to the world. See Mark 15-15, Matthew 28-19. To this we agree, our name implies this-Missionary Baptist. The meaning of Missionary is one sent to a place for a purpose. Christ's object in coming into the world was to seek and save the lost-Luke 19-10. We are not only taught our duty and the purpose of it, but how to do it. See Acts 1-8. Now we see that we must begin at home, and it does seem that we should be more interested for kindred and if they are won to the truth they will help us to send the gospel to the heathens. If we neglect them and they hear not the truth others will teach them error and they will receive it. There are agencies that will look after the fields beyond. There is the State Board, the Home Board and Foreign Board, but they will not look after our field, if we neglect it we'll be left. Is it possible that we have kept others vineyards and our own vineyard we have not kept?

See songs of Solomon, 1-6. There is a great deal of destitution in our Association. We need a man for his time from the 1st of October till the last of September. Brethren, what shall we do about it? May God help us decide to occupy till he come. By his grace we will.

Respectfully submitted.

N. D. CRUTCHER.

A motion was made to adopt the reports, and, after being discussed in a forcible and able manner by Elders A. J. Parker, N. D. Crutcher and J. W. Sandlin pledges and cash were taken as follows:

CHURCHES.

Dallas Avenue	\$ 25 00	Locust Grove	5	00	
First Church, Huntsville.	200 00	Madison	5	00	
Mt. Pisgah	5 00	Mt, Zion (State)			
New Zion (Association)	5 00	Piney Grove	10	00	
Beulah	2 50	Poplar Creek (Associ'n).	1	00	
Total churches \$278, 50					

INDIVIDUALS.

I. F. Rose	pd \$0	25	Forest Hodge\$0	50
C. S. Thorne.		50	Sister C. H. Pettus pd 1	00
M. D. Pettus	pd	50		
Total individuals, \$2 75				

Adopted.

The following committees were appointed:

To Nominate Executive Board—Eld. N. D. Crutcher, T. M. Bayless and W. N. Hargroye.

On Resolutions-R. E. Pettus, W. L. Hilliard, Elder R. Brett.

Elder C. A. Freeman was granted leave of absence.

A motion was entertained and the Association adjourned to 1:30 p. m.

Benediction by Elder F. C. David.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder F. C. David.

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

The Baptists of Alabama have three institutions of learning which deserve especial mention. The Judson Female Institute, located at Marion, which affords educational advantages for girls second to none in the South. Rev. Robt. G. Patrick is president of this institution, and will take pleasure in furnishing catalogues or any information concerning the school to those interested.

2. Howard College, located at East Lake, furnishes splendid

facilities for the education of our boys. And it is with peculiar pleasure we report that the debt which has hampered its usefulness so long has been entirely wiped out, and the college is in a better position to serve the denomination now than ever before.

We also call attention to the North Alabama Collegiate Institute, located at Trinity, on the Southern Railroad, six miles west of Decatur. This school has an important mission to accomplish in preparing young men and ladies to enter the higher colleges and universities. And it also affords a course of learning which admirably equips those who do not wish to take so extensive a course for the duties of life.

And we, your committee, beg our people to patronize our own institutions of learning. And we feel that since we have more schools and better equipped than any denomination in America there is no reason why they should not.

RUTHERFORD BRETT. G. W. JOHNSON.

On motion to adopt the report, Elders R. Brett, F. C. David and J. W. Sandlin spoke on the subject with their usual forcible and convincing manner. At the close of the discussion pledges were taken as follows:

Dallas Avenue	. \$10 00	Locust Grove .		\$5	00
First Church, Huntsville	50 00	Mt. Pisgah	;	3	00
Mt. Zion	20 00	Piney Grove		. 2	00
H. E. Rice	2 50	N. D. Crutcher .		2	50
	Total.	\$95_00.			

Report adopted.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Temperance, in the Bible sense of the word, means self-control in all things, and not merely in the use of wine and strong drinks. Intemperance is the first step which leads out of the true way; the first falsehood which leads to confirmed untruthfulness; the first drink which leads to drunkenness. Bad associates have been the ruin of many a promising youth. Your first trip into a saloon puts you in great danger, though you may not take a drink. Keep as far as possible from intoxicants; shun them as you would a poisonous reptile.

The bread of the intemperate man is wickedness, and his drink is violence. Wine is a mocker and strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise. Let us set our faces as flint against the infamous liquor-traffic in all its forms.

Our judges tell us from the bench that nine-tenths of pauperism and crime are caused by drink, and our physicians that if only irregular tippling were abolished half the current sickness of the land would cease; and our statesmen that the ravages of strong drink are equal to those of the historical scourges of war, famine and

pestilence combined.

Titus 1:7: For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not self-willed, not soon augry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; 8. But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate. 2:1. But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: 2. That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. Eph. 5:18. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the spirit.

Prohibition would not prove such a complete failure if we had men of nerve and convictions, who are not afraid to enforce the law. There is a lack of moral sentiment and faithfulness upon our part.

One billion two hundred millions of dollars are paid annually for liquor alone; \$85,000,000 for public education, and \$11,000,000 for

home and foreign missions.

Let us place ourselves squarely, fearlessly, aggressively against the evils of liquor selling, buying and drinking; let us co-operate together, and use every legitimate agency to overcome this, the greatest curse on earth. Just think of the ghastly spectacle of a hundred thousand dead drunkards per annum in our country; four times that number, perhaps, of rum-cursed souls; and thousands of roined, desolate homes; the pale swarms of waiting widows and misery-maddened mothers, the myriads of demon-driven and hellbound children all because of drink. Temperance is like rain from the cloud or light from the heavenly bodies; the thought issues pure from within, refreshing, unsullied and radiant. There is no grossness, no corruption, for temperance, when effectually realized, is full of joy and virtue. Temperance keeps the senses clear and unembarrassed, and casts the truest luster upon the person it is lodged in. In all forms of intemperance are evil, and destruction to some function of mind or body.. Health can only be acquired and maintained by temperance. Indeed, the indulgence of appetite carries away more victims from the earth than drunkenness. It is a law of nature that penalty must follow excess. Let not your desire for any one thing cause you to become an extremist. Should you be addicted to the habit of smoking, do not smoke more than thirty times daily. Acts 24:25: And as he reasoned of righteonsness, temperance, and the judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered. Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season I will call for thee. Gal. 5:23: Meckness, temperance; against such there is no law. II. Peter, 1:6: And to knowledge, temperance; and to temperance, patience: and to patience, godliness. W. E. Pettus, Chairman of Committee.

On motion to adopt, discussion was had by Elders R. Brett, J. W. Sandlin and Bro. R. E. Pettus, at the close of which the report was adopted.

W. L. Hilliard was granted leave of absence.

RELIGIOUS LITERATURE

We, your Committee to report on Religious Literature, submit the following: The letters of the different churches show so few taking our religious papers. For this reason our people are not posted as to our denominational work. Therefore, we urge our Baptist people to take our State paper, the Alabama Baptist, the Home Field and Foreign Mission Journal. We would not forget to mention the Texas Baptist Standard and Western Recorder; and we as preachers, should urge upon the churches the importance of reading Baptist literature, and as parents we should place it in reach of our children.

Respectfully submitted.

H. E. RICE.

A motion was made to adopt the report, upon which Elders H. E Rice and Rutherford Brett made good talks.

The Committee on Devotional Exercises made report as follows: Bro. A. J. Parker will preach at this church this evening at 7:30; Bro. Sandlin at Bethel schoolhouse and Bro. Pettus at Cash Point at same hour, and Bro. R. Brett from the stand at Ha. m. to-morrow.

WOMAN'S WORK.

No great work has ever been done in the world but that woman has played a conspicuous part in it. God realized the importance of woman's work, and gave her to the first man. True manhood has ever recognized woman in her sphere as being a mighty factor for good, and many times, like Barak, man has refused to go unless she goes with him.

Woman is doing more to-day for the world's redemption than man. For, in addition to the money she is raising and the souls she is leading to Christ directly, she is moiding, shaping and directing the lives of men; and, with her strong Christian fidelity, she is indeed the power behind the throne which lurges man to "undertake great things for God." We believe every church should have a "Woman's Mission Union;" and in an organized way do still greater things for the cause of Christ.

J. W. SANDLIN.

Report adopted.

THE PRAYER MEETING.

Sound the status of the prayer meeting, and you find the pulse-

beat of the church. No church is in the enjoyment of a high degree of spiritual prosperity that does not have a live prayer meeting. Prayer is the source of spiritual supply for the individual soul. David says: I will lift mine eyes unto the hills whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Prayer is the great channel through which spiritual supplies come to the church. Those disciples of our Lord prayed in that upper room; they waited and prayed and prayed and waited for spiritual power. Spiritual power came with mighty redeeming influence and vitalizing force, so that the word of God from Peter's lips was quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, awakening dead sinners into life and salvation.

There are times when the individual soul must be alone in sweet communion with God. Then there are times when the church shall meet at the appointed time and place and there, before the two or three who have met in Christ's name, or the multifude, and publicly pour out their hearts to God.

Much might be said with regard to methods of conducting the prayer meeting. All should feel that God is a spirit and secketh such to worship as worship him in spirit and in truth. A good plan is to have some brother appointed to study and read the Sunday-school lesson designed for the next Sabbath, give his views on the truths taught in the lesson, and have other brethren talk also. Or else, have some other passage announced at one meeting for the next, and the appointee requested to be prepared to talk on it. At all events, the Scripture reading should be short, and be sure that the prayers do not go around the world and cover every living thing. The prayers should look to some given object and special blessing on one or more lines of the church's needs. Let the prayers and talks be interspersed with a verse or two of song rendered in the Spirit and with life and energy.

Apologies will add nothing to the success or profit of the meeting. Let the brother first proceed at once to read his lesson and make his talk. Brethren should study their prayers, at least enough to avoid opening and closing every one he prays just alike. Let the congregation go at or about the expiration of an hour.

Respectfully submitted.

F. C. DAVID.

Report adopted.

CHURCH LETTERS.

We, the Committee on Synopsis of Church Letters, beg leave to report as follows: We find that there is a lack of pastors to preach to the churches, and a great need of Sunday-schools and prayer meetings. A great many report none of these essentials to the church work. We find that where they have no pastors nor Sunday-schools they make a very scattering report of church work, and a decline in the spiritual condition and membership. We are glad to find two petitionary letters which make a very good report.

Respectfully submitted.

W. H. Pettus. G. N. Johnson. J. N. Rogers.

Adopted.

The following delegates to other bodies were appointed, to wit: State Convention—Elders Rotherford Brett, H. E. Rice, N. D. Crutcher, W. H. Pettus; Bros. R. E. Pettus and Dr. J. P. Hampton. Southern Baptist Association—Bro. R. E. Pettus. Alternates, Elders H. E. Rice and R. Brett.

Muscle Shoals Association-Eld, R. Brett.

Wm. Cary Association—Elders H. E. Rice, R. Brett, N. D. Crutcher and Dr. J. P. Hampton.

By motion of Eld. R. Brett a committee was appointed composed of three to confer with the State Secretary and the other Associations to arrange the dates of meeting for each Association in North Alabama—Elders R. Brett, N. D. Crutcher and R. E. Pettus.

By motion of R. E. Pettus adjourned until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

Benediction by Eld. J. W. Sandlin.

THIRD DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

Saturday Morning, Sept. 16, 1899.

Association called to order by Moderator.

Prayer by Bro. R. E. Pettus.

Minutes of yesterday's proceedings read and adopted.

The following committees were announced by the Moderator to report at our next annual meeting:

STANDING COMMITTEES.

On Foreign Missions—Eld. R. Brett, W. P. Webster, A. J. Parker.

Home Missions—Eld. S. R. Butler, T. M. Bayless, R. H. Taylor. State Missions—Eld. J. W. Hilliard, J. J. Lawler, G. W. Johnson.

Associational Wissions-M. B. Neece, George W. Taylor, W. J. Baugher.

Education—Eld. H. E. Rice, W. L. Hafley, J. A. Erwin. Temperance—Eld. W. H. Pettus, R. V. Linard, T. C. Abernathy. Religious Literature—W. E. Pettns, J. W. Lawler, J. M. Riddle. Orphans' Home—M. O. Pettus, D. K. Wall, Emory Pierce.

Woman's Work-Mrs. C. F. Sugg, Mrs. M. B. Neece, Miss Mary Glenn.

Young People's Work-M. H. Crutcher, J. C. Stoner, L. B. Giaze.

Prayer Meeting—Eld. N. D. Crutcher, J. C. Jones, A. J. Parker. Sabbath Schools—R. E. Pettos, I. F. Rose, R. C. Griggs. Indigent Ministers—Eld. A. J. Parker.

The Committee on Indigent Ministers reported that there was no one within the bounds of our Assocition who needed special care.

By motion of Bro. R. E. Pettus, Bro. M. H. Crutcher, who is wanting to prepare for the ministry, was made the beneficiary of our Association of the funds appropriated for education.

Resolution, by R. E. Pettus:

Resolved, That the delegates composing the Liberty Association tender the members of Piney Grove church their heartfelt thanks for their open-hearted hospitality extended them during the deliberations of this body.

Adopted by a rising vote.

PLACE OF MEETING IN 1900.

Rice church was chosen as the place of meeting in 1900.

Eld. Rutherford Brett was chosen to preach the introductory sermon, and Eld. N. D. Crutcher as alternate.

At the suggestion of the Clerk, a motion was made by Eld. H. E. Rice that the Finance Committee be instructed to pay over the funds collected to the Treasurer of the Executive Board, taking his receipt for the same.

Eld. F. C. David was permitted to take the floor and speak in interest of the institute work, and the North Alabama Collegiate Institute and Normal School.

Elders J. W. Sandlin and R. Brett also made good speeches on the advantages of the school, and asked that the institute work have a place on the minutes with the standing committees for a report at the next meeting.

A committee was appointed by the Moderator, composed of Etd. R. Brett, R. E. Pettns and Perry Henderson, to make report.

EXECUTIVE BOARD COMMITTEE.

We, your Committee to nominate an Executive Board, would respectfully recommend Dr. J. P. Hampton, R. E. Pettus, H. E. Rice,

J. A. Fanning, J. J. Lawler and T. J. Wall; and that three of them be a quorum, with or without the chairman, after the others have had due notice.

Respectfully submitted.

N. D. Crutcher. T. M. BAYLESS.

Adopted.

A collection was taken to assist Walnut Hill to build their church house, and the sum of \$5.20 received.

A collection was also taken for Poplar Creek for the same purpose, and \$4.02 received.

REPORT ON SABPATH SCHOOLS.

We, your committee, would respectfully report that while the interest in Sunday-schools is on the increase, which is very gratifying, it is not what we would like to see. We think that every member of every church should be heartily in this work, that there should be no struggling or strangling or flagging on this line of work in any or our churches; but that each and every one should go forward.

The study of the Bible is one of the most important and imperative duties imposed upon professed Christians and upon those who are not Christians as well. Christ's command is, Search the Scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life, and they are they which testify of me. This command has reference to the law, the prophecies and the Psalms, which were the only Scriptures that were written at that time. We are taught that all Scripture is by inspiration of God; and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. Then, if you are Christians, study the Bible in Sun lay-school and out of school; and if you are not Christians, study the Bible, for it is a lamp unto our path, and will guide you in the way of all truth. To be forewarned is to be forearmed. God gives I is people through the prophetic Word an opportunity to learn what is coming on the earth, that they may know how to act when the predictions come to pass. In view of this, whoever is overtaken unawards by any calamity which the prophecies have pointed out will be held guilty by him who so kindly reveals these things for our benefit.

> "O Thou whom we adore, To bless our earth again Assume thine own almighty power And o'er the nations reign,"

Respectfully submitted.

J. P. Hamaton, Chairman Committee.

On motion to adopt, Dr. J. P. Hampton, Elders H. E. Rice and W. H. Pettus and Bro. R. E. Pettus spoke at some length, at the close of which the report was adopted.

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

We, your Finance Committee, beg to make the following report: We have received from the various churches—

For—	Cash	. Vouchers.
State missions	\$77-40	80 62
Home missions	6 0	0 59 20
Foreign missions	11 08	8 19 07
Associational purposes	28 20	9 42 00
Ministerial education	28 50	77 00
Orphans' Home.	38	5 28 17
Minutes	20 3	0

We have also examined the books of Bro. R. E. Pettus, Treasurer of the Executive Board, and find them neatly and correctly kept. Respectfully submitted.

JNO, A. FANNING, T. J. WALL, W. J. BAUGHER,

Adopted.

Resolution:

Whereas, It is apparent that there is a great spiritual dearth in our Association; and

Whereas, The cause of our blessed Master in most if not all of our churches seems to be trailing in the dust by reason of a terrible lethargy and worldly-mindness among many of the members of our churches; therefore

Resolved, That we request the churches, through the pastors and delegates present, to observe the first Friday in each month as a day of fasting and prayer for the visitation of the Holy Spirit in reviving power in all our hearts, and that the spirit of missions may pervade all of our churches, that God may be glorified and his Son honored in the spread of the gospel and in the salvation of sinners; and that this service be rendered to God for his blessings until next Association, beginning the first Friday in October next.

N. D. CRUTCHER.

Adopted.

After singing, Eld. R. Brett took the stand for preaching, and read the 12th chapter of Daniel. Prayer by Eld. J. W. Sandlin. Bro. Brett took as text the latter clause of the 3d verse of the chapter read. In the conclusion of the sermon, Bro. Brett gave his experience in his conviction and conversion, which greatly stirred the

hearts of the congregation, the result of which was that there was a glorious visitation of the Spirit's power, and many were made to rejoice in the Lord and feast on his love.

Prayer was led by Eld. H. E. Rice.

By motion of R. E. Pettus, a collection was taken to supplement the printing fund, and the sum of \$2.23 received.

By R. E. Pettns:

Resolved, That the Clerk be authorized to draw on the Executive Board for any balance needed for printing minutes.

The Committee on Devotional Exercises announced that there would be preaching in this church to-night, and that Eld. F. C. David would preach to-morrow at 11 a. m.

The Moderator announced that the business of the Association had been completed, and that we would now adjourn to meet with Rice Church on Thursday before the third Sunday in September, 1900.

Prayer by Eld. Rutherford Brett.

J. P. HAMPTON, Moderator.

PERRY HENDERSON, Clerk.

STATISTICS OF THE LIBERTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION FOR THE YEAR 1899.

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FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF LIBERTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION FOR 1899.

Value of Property.	200 1500 1500 1500 1500 1500 1500 1600 16	200
Totul.	Cash	50 200 \$345× 66 * 25,200
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